(c) whether internal conflict between the Population Commission and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the reason behind it; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non existence of coordination between both the Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) At the first Conference of the National Commission on Population in July, 2000, the Prime Minister has announced the intention of the Government to set up a National Population Stabilization Fund. After considering the various issues relating to the location and constitution of the Fund, it has been decided that the same will be located in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is taking the necessary steps to set up the National Population Stabilization Fund.

Programme for BPL people

†1657. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased 'to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new programme for people living Below Poverty Line in various State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government for providing education, health care facilities and food to poor people living Below Poverty Line in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the on-going Poverty Alleviation Programmes are being continued in the Tenth Plan, with modifications in the scope and content of these programmes.

(c) In the Tenth Plan the monitorable targets include all children in school by 2003 and all children to complete 5 years of schooling by 2007. Various incentives are being provided to students belonging to SCs/ STs and OBCs for increasing their participation in education. These include construction of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls, Ashram Schools for STs, coaching/tuition facilities, book banks and merit scholarships.

The Government is committed to provide essential primary health care, emergency life saving services, services under the National disease

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

control programmes and the National Family Welfare programme totally free of cost to individuals based on their needs and not on their ability to pay. Government is also committed to provide subsidized/free other health care services to people below poverty line based on their need and not on their ability to pay for the services.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was initiated in June, 1997 targeted to the poor Under this scheme each poor family was entitled to 10 kg of foodgrains per month at specially subsidized prices. This was expected to benefit about 6 crore poor families. Further the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was launched in December. 2000 covering 1 crore poorest of the poor families. Under this 25 kg of foodgrains was provided to each family at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg. tor wheat and Rs. 3 per kg for rice. In a recent decision taken on 23.3.2002, the scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households was increased to 35 per month.

Financial crisis in Punjab

1658. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab is suffering from a severe financial crisis as on after effect of the menace of militancy it has gone through from 1978 to 1992;

(b) whether it is being considered for any financial package on the lines of such packages to its neighbours like Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchaland Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the chief Minister, Punjab has written to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In the context of insurgency and militancy in Punjab, the State Government was provided Special Term loans amounting to Rs. 5799.92 crore for financing the State's Annual Plans during the period from 1984-85 to 1993-94. Further, Government of India has written off the Punjab Government's obligations for payment of principal and interest amounting to Rs. 3413.11 crore during the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.